

■ NATIONAL

Fresh water aquaculture firms to be expanded in northern Rakhine

► PAGE 5



■ NATIONAL

Activities for social protection and development in Rakhine State underway as a Priority

► PAGE 3

■ OPINION

Shame/Guilt-Culture Are Found To Decrease In Our Society

► PAGE 8

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Marine Aquaculture Farming Entrepreneurs and Merchants Hope for Returning to Normal Trade in Maungtaw District

RECENT armed attacks in northern Rakhine state that prompted the temporary closure of border gates has caused hardship for merchants, including those involved in the salt water shrimp market in Maungtaw, according to salt water prawn and shrimp market.

Bangladesh buys most of aquacultured prawn and marine shrimp from Maungtaw and regions nearby. Due to a series of violent armed attacks by terrorists last month, border gates have been closed, which resulted in losses to farming entrepreneurs and merchants, who are waiting for the return to normalcy.

Bangladesh has been purchasing salt water prawn from Maungtaw region for years, merchants said, and the sudden halt to the commerce is unwelcome.

"Such incidents give no benefits to anyone. We want to eke out our living peacefully", said U Arnupar, the owner of prawn selling and purchasing depot of Myoma/south (ward) in Maungtaw.

Last year, the volume of salt water prawn along the Maungtaw border trade route reached 286 tonnes, resulting in an income of US\$2million.

See page 3 >>



Workers at a shrimp processing factory in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MIN HTET /PHO HTAUNG

Electrocution suspected in death of endangered dolphin in Ayeyawady

Aung Thant Khaing

THE recent killing of a pregnant dolphin, which is believed to have been killed by illegal electrofishing, has set off alarm bells for conservationists to step up efforts for saving the endangered species.

"The death is the first ever in the conservation area between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung",

said Kyaw Hla Thein, the project manager of the dolphin conservation team of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Myanmar. "We assume that the fish was killed by illegal battery-shock fishing". The team recorded 58 such killings in 2015.

During the monthly survey trip, the team found a one-foot long dolphin fetus in its mother's womb. The Ayeyawady dolphin is

on the brink of extinction.

Some conservationists suspect the degraded quality of the river water contributed to the death of the dolphin. "The death can be assumed due to abortion because the water is polluted with chemicals from farmlands along the river and pollution caused by gold mines," said U Han Win, a dolphin conservationist.

Battery-shock fishing and net

fishing are mostly blamed for the deaths of Ayeyawady dolphins.

With this most recent death and another one in August, the number of dolphins in a 72-kilo-

metre stretch of the Ayeyawady River between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung has decreased from 25 to 23.

See page 3>>

"Illegal battery-shock fishing has become a big challenge for conservationists and local authorities in their quest to save the endangered species".

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The dormitory destroyed by arson attack. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

Residents in Maungtaw District decry recent arsons

VILLAGES in southern part of Maungtaw Districts were relatively peaceful yesterday but residents requested greater security after two dormitories for teachers in Myinlook were destroyed by arsonists on Thursday evening.

"People have to live in fear because some extremists set fire to dormitory buildings. Our children and grandchildren studied at the school. We regarded the school as our own property. We will never encourage such unlawful acts," U Kyaw Swe, also known as Abdu Hafis, told a news team from My-

anmar News Agency.

The arsonists had also set fire to a dormitory in the same school on 7 November, authorities said. The structure was in the process of being rebuilt when two more dormitories were torched.

Myinlook is a town composed of 8 wards and one middle school staffed by 9 teachers. More than one thousand students attend the school. Only dormitories were damaged in the two incidents. Local resident were able to extinguish the fires within an hour. Only a few people have recently visited the

Alethankyaw beach, usually the busiest spot in southern Maungtaw, due to series of violent attacks.

A news team that recently visited most of the villages said they were relatively peaceful compared to the northern areas, but residents are still requesting better security arrangements. "Our village is usually peaceful, but now residents are requesting better security arrangements, like night patrols," said U Tun Lin, the headmaster of the school in Oodaung Model Village.—*Maung Sein Lwin and MNA's staff*

India-Myanmar-Thailand Car Rally to promote connectivity: Assam CM



Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagging off the India - Myanmar-Thailand friendship car rally. PHOTO:PTI

GUWAHATI: The India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) car rally would go a long way in improving communication and trade with the north east region's immediate neighbours Myanmar and Thailand, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal said here today.

"The IMT rally will help realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Act East' policy by promoting connectivity and building common historical link-

ages in the region," he said after flagging off the rally participants. There is tremendous potential to develop the NE region through focused activity in sectors like education, health, skill development and tourism, and linking the region with its South East Asian neighbours, he said. The chief minister also highlighted the state government's initiative to develop state infrastructure as well as work on Brahmaputra river to use it ef-

fectively as a waterway connecting the region. Sonowal announced that the state government would organise a Brahmaputra Festival, integrating the traditional sports and culture with modern facilities to enhance economic development in April next year.

The IMT car rally+ has been organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Kalinga Motor Sports Club (KMSC), Bhubaneswar and is supported by the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Development Of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Petroleum and Natural Gas and External Affairs.

The rally, comprising 21 vehicles and 70 participants, began its 5,722 km journey from New Delhi on November 13 and travelled through Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi, Sarnath, Bodh Gaya, Patna and Siliguri to reach Guwahati on November 18. The rally is scheduled to travel through the north-eastern states of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur and enter Myanmar through the Moreh point. It will culminate at Bangkok on December 3.—*The Times of India*

Fighting between Tatamdaw and RCSS/SSA found to be ignited by low level personnels of both sides

FIGHTING between the Tatamdaw and the RCSS/SSA in recent months were caused by weaknesses of low level personnel from both sides in obedience of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, according to U Maung Maung Nyein of verification team of the Union-Level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee- JMC-U.

"In review of the incidents, troops from both sides breached the NCA. However, both sides said that they were educating their troops on the truce agreement," he told reporters after the third day meeting of the Union-Level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee- JMC-U held in Yangon.

"There are also misunderstandings and they did not do anything intentionally," he added.

The fact finding team visited the scene of fighting from 29 October to 5 November.

It was also learnt that it was the first time such fact finding mission had been formed in Shan State. The fact finding mission examined the situation and met with local people on a regular basis to get their opinions.

The mission was said to have met with 7 people who were directly involved in the incidents and 9 witnesses in Nantlan incident and 10 people who were directly involved incidents and 3 witnesses.

In addition, there were less cooperation in drug eradication and implementation of the NCA and recruitment was still taking place, according to the fact finding mission.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*



Peace makers holds the meeting at Myanmar Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

Mindset, concept and behaviour important for democratisation: Thura U Shwe Mann

The 40th Southeast Asian Paper Reading Session titled "Prospects and Challenges of Democracy", jointly organised by Yangon University and Kyodo University, was held at the Business Alliance Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning, with an opening address by Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

Pro-rector Dr Daw Ohmar Kyaw of Yangon University and Dr Yasuyui, Director of Southeast Asian Studies of Kyodo University

ty extended greetings to open the session. In his address, Thura U Shwe Mann pointed out the importance of mindset, concept and behaviour in democratisation that are reflected in people-centred policies, prioritising the interests of the people, accountability and transparency. Thura U Shwe Mann also responded to queries raised by professors, faculty members and students. The paper reading session will continues until 22nd November.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Thura U Shwe Mann talks to students from Yangon University and Kyoto University. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Myanmar police to recruit new members nationwide

THE Myanmar Police Force disclosed that it plans to recruit new members from all regions and states, refuting allegations of a “civilian force” in Rakhine State.



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

“There is no plan to establish a civilian force in Rakhine State and in other regions and states as well”, said Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

“The recruitment is aimed at reinforcing the police force in the country,” he added.

Government troops including border guard police and soldiers continue to conduct area clearance operations in Rakhine State after the coordinated attacks on three border posts on 9 October, in which nine police officers were killed.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Villagers in northern Rakhine receive aid from WFP. PHOTO: MNA

Activities for social protection and development in Rakhine State underway as a Priority



Officials meet for resettlement and socio-economic development in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

DR WIN MYAT AYE, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement made a speech at the meeting of the committee for resettlement and socio-economic development in Rakhine State held at the Office of the State Cabinet in Sittway this morning, expressing that the State is carrying out the task of social protection and development in the region as a top priority, presently and further in future.

Union Minister added, “It is essential to be stable and peaceful in implementing tasks of development. The State is promptly

making responses over the current affairs of Maungdaw region of Rakhine State. Concurrently it is very important to solve the present problems with care and presence of mind, especially not to make them bigger. It is also of great importance to fill their basic needs. We will deal with difficulties in cooperation with various organizations as to how to support people in distant areas without disturbing prior tasks of socio-economic development.”

Afterward, Union Minister gave necessary advices over the matters submitted by U Nyi Pu,

Chief Minister and Rakhine State Cabinet members and departmental head of Rakhine State.

Then responsible officials accepted the subvention K 700 lakhs as socio-economic development fund, K (23820300) as expense for oil to operate generators and K259160000 for building 2 storm-proof buildings.

Present at the meeting were U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister, Rakhine State Cabinet members, permanent secretary of the MSRR and responsible persons and departmental staff. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Marine Aquaculture Farming Entrepreneurs and Merchants Hope for Returning to Normal Trade in Maungdaw District

>> FROM PAGE 1

Similarly, there was export earning amounting to US\$4.3m from the sale of fishery products including mud crabs, salt water fish and various kinds of fried fish, according to the district fishery department. There were about 15,000 acres of salt-water prawn farm in Maungdaw prior to the armed attacks. Depots received several thousand viss of prawn daily. That figure has now been reduced by

half, officials said.

“Before now, Maungdaw’s production of salt-water prawn was high, coming in approximately at least one thousand viss per day. Now that it is beginning to be stable and peaceful, the business started to be active. Yet we are delivering our products only to Sittway. We must wait and see when the border gates will be reopened”, said an entrepreneur who runs a prawn sale and purchase depot. It is learnt that

“Due to a series of violent armed attacks by terrorists last month, border gates have been closed, which resulted in losses to farming entrepreneurs and merchants, who are waiting for the return to normalcy”.

at least six villages — Maung Ni, Pantawpyin, Thayekonatan, Myothagyi, Alethanyaw and Shwezar Paungzar — have salt water prawn farming ponds. Of these, there are over 5,000 acres owned by the army and over 10,000 acres owned by small-scale businessmen. “I had 3 acres of salt water prawn farm. I have not harvested fish from my pond for a long time, I expected to harvest at the end of this month”, said U Har Dinnar, a salt water

prawn farming owner in Alethanyaw village. “I think the border gates will be reopened very soon. Now our town and many villages have regained peace and stability. I visited Maungdaw yesterday and found town-folks, sellers and buyers operating as normal.”

There are about 60 entrepreneurs running salt-water prawn farming businesses in the township, it is learnt.—*Maung Sein Lwin and MNA’s staff*

Electrocution suspected in death of endangered dolphin in Ayeyawady

>> from page 1

Annual surveys by WCS have shown that the number of the dolphins had increased from 17 or 18 in 2005 to 24 in February last year between Mandalay and Kyaukmyaung.

The survey in February also found 58 dolphins between Mandalay and Bhamo, which is a drop from 72 in 2004.

Most of the dead dolphins were found near Bhamo and Katha and were caused by illegal fishing, according to the fisheries department.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has warned that Irrawaddy dolphins are at risk of extinction. In Myanmar, Irrawaddy dolphins have been known to drive fish toward fishermen’s nets in re-

turn for some of the fishermen’s catch.

But with many fishermen on the Ayeyawady river using illegal battery-shock fishing techniques, the dolphins often also fall prey to electrocution.

Illegal battery-shock fishing has become a big challenge for conservationists and local authorities in their quest to save the endangered species, according to Myanmar’s fisheries department.

The Myanmar government has banned electrofishing nationwide, punishing violators with a three-year prison sentence and a K300,000 fine.

“Sometimes, we witness electroshock fishing in the river during our routine conservation trips. Once we see them, they run away,” U Kyaw Hla Thein said.



Volunteers remove the carcass of dolphin from the Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY WCS (MYANMAR)

Mandalay expo opened at town hall



Mandalay expo opening ceremony in progress. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

THE opening ceremony for the Brand New Car Show & Special Discount Expo 2016 was held at the Mandalay Town hall on Friday.

Officials from the main sponsors of the expo cut a ceremonial ribbons to officially open

the event. The exhibition features electronic devices, food, cosmetics, textiles, fancy items for female, China-made mobiles, stationery, kitchen utensils, construction tools, herbal medicines, consumer goods, brick moulding machines, In-

dia-made TVS motorbikes, Nissan, Ford and Hyundai cars and engine oil are being displayed. At the expo, 30 companies are exhibiting their goods at 80 booths. The Expo is set to be held from 18 to 21 November.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

2nd WHITE art exhibition held in Mandalay

THE 2nd Art Exhibition titled WHITE opened at the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery at the bottom of Mandalay Hill in Aungmyaethazan Township yesterday.

At the event, painting and sculpture artists delivered greetings, and Ko Nyi Ngae gave words of thanks on behalf of the members of the WHITE exhibit.

The five-day event will run from 19 November to 23 November.

The 2nd WHITE Art Exhibition is organised by 12 artists who graduated from the State School of Fine Arts in 1999. This year's exhibit featured 75 works, including watercolours and acrylic paintings created by the artists.—*Than Zaw Min (IPRD)*



Visitors at 2nd WHITE art exhibition in Mandalay. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN

Crime NEWS

Over 100 Myanmar students hospitalised for suspected food poisoning

OVER 100 Myanmar students from a school in Thailand were rushed to the hospital on Wednesday after they fell ill soon after finishing their breakfast, it is learnt.

According to the investigation, the teachers said that school donors brought fried chicken, eggs, curry and doughnuts to the school for the students. A few minutes later, students started to suffer from severe stomach aches and began vomiting. Teachers immediately sent them to the township hospital.

One medical official speculated that improper storage during transport of the food in the country's recent hot weather may be a contributing factor. "Currently, the weather in Thailand is not stable. So we should not (serve)



Food-poisoned students being treated in hospital.

PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KYAWTHAUNG)

the foods that are not safe for the weather conditions," said a doctor. Doctors and officials are still determining the exact cause of the food poisoning.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)*

Vehicles hit aluminum guardrails twice in a day

TWO vehicles crashed into aluminum guardrails in separate accidents yesterday.

A van en route to Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw driven by Tun Shwe with four passengers on board crashed into the aluminum guardrails between mileposts 2/6 and 2/7 on the Yangon-Mandalay highway when the driver lost control of his car. Two out of the five passengers sustained minor injuries in the accident. The injured were undergoing medical treatment at the Hlegu gen-

eral hospital. Tun Shwe has been charged with reckless driving under section 338/337 of the Penal Code.

The second accident occurred around 11:45am between mileposts 335/4 and 335/5. The vehicle heading to Mandalay from Nay Pyi Taw driven by Zaw Min Oo hit the guardrails, causing one of the front tires of his vehicle to flatten. No one was injured in the accident. Traffic police opened a lawsuit against the driver.—*Than Oo (Laymyethnar)*

Six trafficked Myanmar workers rescued in Malaysia

SIX Myanmar workers detained in Bandar Peria Jaya town were rescued from human traffickers on Wednesday by police in Malaysia, according to Malaysia Police Commissioner Abdul Hamid.

According to Malaysian police, the detained people were suspected in a murder case in Penang, but were later deemed innocent. But the Myanmar citizens were held against their will until being rescued Wednesday. They were discovered locked in a room after Malaysian police arrested two people who were suspected of illegal human trafficking.

The increasing number of trafficked people can be attributed to lack of employment opportunities in their mother land, officials said.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)*

Explosions at Mayangon Ocean Center frighten patrons

TWO explosions occurred at the Ocean Center in Mayangon township in Yangon on Thursday evening. There were no injuries.

The first incident occurred at about 7:30pm when a cleaner moved a plastic rubbish bin in the men's toilet on the ground floor, causing an explosion, according to investigators. The blast caused shoppers and employees to run away from the shopping centre, authorities said. Security guards at the centre put out the resulting fire with a fire extinguisher. An

official from the shopping centre found a piece of an M-150 energy drink bottle at the scene.

About 15 minutes later, another explosion occurred in the Ocean Center parking lot. The explosion was caused when the vehicle's back wheel ran over a M-150 energy drink bottle at about 7:45pm. A police official said some sort of chemical liquid was found on the bottle and another chemical liquid in a tube.

The police are still investigating the case.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Driver burnt to death after car overturns and bursts into flame

A driver was burnt to death when his Hilux pickup overturned and burst into flame on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in Taungoo Township, Bago region on Friday morning.

The vehicle driven by Saw Maw Ni Htoo, 40, with the passengers on board was en route to Nay Pyi Taw when the driver apparently lost control, causing the vehicle to overturn and roll repeatedly. As the ve-

hicle continued to roll over, it caught fire, investigators said. The fire was brought under control within 20 minutes by highway road firemen.

The driver died at the scene, while nine passengers suffered serious injuries, officials said. The driver was deemed guilty of careless driving under section 304(A)/338/337/285 of the Panel Code.—*Myanmar Police Force*



Hilux overturns and catches fire on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Fresh water aquaculture firms to be expanded in northern Rakhine

MAUNGTAW District Fishery Department is planning to expand aquaculture business to villages in the district as part of efforts for assisting in socio-economic development in the areas.

Under the plan, five fish ponds each in 96 villages in Maungtaaw District and loans with low interest will be granted to villagers through banks, according to the Maungtaaw District Fishery Department.

The department has planned to spend more than K3.6 billion on digging fish ponds in the villages.

“Currently, we are working to expand fresh water fish farms and

marine water hatchery farms in Maungtaaw District, said U Naing Win Thein, Deputy Director of the Maungtaaw District Fishery Department. While the number of salt water prawn ponds has reached more than 100,000 in Rakhine State, the number of fresh water fish ponds has reached just under 100, according to the department.

The number of fresh water fish ponds in Buthidaung has increased recently from 100 to more than 300 while Maungtaaw has just around 100 ponds.

“Only when the number of hatchery farms increases, can the

aquaculture business be thriving in this district,” said U Naing Win Thein.

The expansion of the business would bring more job opportunities to the district and would meet the food sufficiently of the district, he added. The department has asked the permission from its ministry to open five more hatchery farms in Maungtaaw District. Maungtaaw District sets its target of earning US\$7.5 million from exporting fishery products this year while it earned around US\$ 7.3 million last year.—*Maung Sein Lwin and MNA's staff*



A fish pond is seen in Maungtaaw. PHOTO: MIN HTET

Petronet bets on LNG-fuelled vehicles to drive up demand

NEW DELHI — India's top gas importer Petronet LNG is betting on liquefied natural gas-powered ships and vehicles to drive up demand for the cleaner fuel, its managing director said, helping the world's third most polluting nation to improve air quality.

Prabhat Singh told reporters he expected a shift to LNG-driven vehicles to create “reasonable demand” for the fuel in a country where many industries are not yet linked to the pipe grid. India currently lags Asian rival China, where thousands of trucks and buses already run on LNG.

“This is a big item and big market,” Singh said, adding many of the 200,000 trucks that on average join India's fleet a year could run on LNG.

New Delhi wants to raise the use of gas in its energy mix to 15 per cent in three to four years from 6.5 per cent now to curb emissions and cut its dependence on imported oil.

To meet that goal, it is expanding the gas distribution network in cities linked to the grid and plans to run inland barges and trains on LNG.

The government may issue an order in the coming week allowing the use of LNG as a transport fuel, Singh said, adding LNG stations were cheaper to build as the fuel is trucked in and so doesn't require pipelines.

LNG is also denser than diesel and compressed natural gas, meaning trucks and buses need smaller fuel tanks to go the same distance.—*Reuters*

Japanese-aided e-customs system launched in Myanmar's Yangon

YANGON — Myanmar has launched an online customs clearance system in its commercial capital of Yangon, replacing the previous time-wasting manual scheme with an electronic one modeled on a Japanese system.

About 95 per cent of customs services at Yangon's international airports, seaports and other places, including the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, started using the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System last Saturday after a three-month test run was finished on 31 October. Win Thant, director of the MACCS division under the Customs Department, said the new system has reduced time and costs for customs clearance procedures as it enables users to access the round-the-clock system rather than visiting customs offices in person.

“The users are very satisfied with the new system because the previous method of the Customs Declaration was manual and a bit complicated,” he said. “But there are many challenges in adapting to the system as it is not friendly to the users yet when the system is changed suddenly.” But things will go smoothly after a month when people fully understand the new system, Win Thant said.

So far, the system only covers the Yangon area but it is planned to be extended to border trade centers in coming years. “We have to consider the availability of funding and technical support to adopt the system in border areas and the success of the process depends on basic infrastructure, other facilities and the security situation as well,” Win Thant said.

To expand the e-customs system in other parts of the country, the department will prioritize the Myawaddy trade center on the border with Thailand among its 15 border trade centers with Bangladesh, China, India and Thailand.

MACCS was introduced in 2013 with the financial and technical help of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, including an initial grant of 3.9 billion yen (\$35 million). The system is based on the technology of Japan's Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System and Customs Intelligence Database System.

According to figures for fiscal 2015 through last March, 73 per cent of Myanmar's trade came through Yangon and 27 per cent from land border commerce.—*Kyodo News*



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Cambodia backtracks on announcement of first Zika case

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia announced Saturday that a statement released a day earlier on the detection of the country's first Zika case in recent years was a "flaw."

A joint statement issued by Cambodia's Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation said that, after thorough examination and a "molecular biology test" by the Pasteur Institute of Cambodia, the patient's result had in fact been negative.

It said the first test conducted by the same institute through a "sequencing method" was not accurate.

A statement released late Friday by the Health Ministry said a 44-year-old man living in Tameang Village, Kompong Siem District in Cambodia's eastern province of Kompong Cham, was found to be infected with the mosquito-borne virus, which has spread around the world.

The man was admitted to hospital on 14 October

and was discharged on 18 October after fully recovering, and the virus was confirmed on 11 November by Pasteur Institute of Cambodia.

It said seven Zika cases were detected in Cambodia between 2007 and 2010 but all those patients had recovered.

Although Zika infection symptoms are generally mild in adults, the virus can cause smaller-than-normal and misshapen skulls in unborn babies whose mothers have been infected.

Some countries have also reported a steep increase in Guillain-Barre syndrome — a neurological disorder that could lead to paralysis and death — for which the Zika virus is believed to be a trigger.

The Zika virus is transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. These same mosquitoes can also transmit dengue, which is endemic throughout Cambodia.—*Kyodo News*

Thousands of Indonesians rally against racial, religious intolerance

JAKARTA — Thousands of Indonesians held a peaceful rally on Saturday to promote unity, saying they were worried by signs of growing racial and religious intolerance in the world's largest Muslim-majority country.

Dressed in red and white shirts, the colours of the Indonesian flag, religious leaders, members of human rights groups, lawmakers and others marched along a central Jakarta street.

Some held posters with the national motto "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika", which means unity in diversity, while others performed traditional dances.

"This is about diversity, but also about unity. We have to separate politics from ethnicity, religion, and race," said 25-year old Iwan Saputra. "I want Indonesia to stay united."

Concerns about rising hardline Islamic sentiment in the country of 250 million people have grown



People inside a bus watch others take part in a rally against what they see as growing racial and religious intolerance in the world's largest Muslim-majority country, in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 19 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

since police decided on Wednesday to investigate a blasphemy complaint by Muslim groups against the Christian governor of Jakarta.

More than 100,000 Muslims protested against Governor Basuki Purnama earlier this

month. Police fired tear gas and water cannon to quell the protest.

"The economy is growing, infrastructure is being built everywhere. Don't let this all be destroyed just because of ego," said Saidiman Ahmad, an activist with Lib-

eral Islam Network.

Some analysts have said the police decision to pursue the case was a blow to democracy as well as diversity. Indonesia recognises six religions and is home to several minority groups that adhere to traditional beliefs.—*Reuters*

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Farmers fear lost crops and income after 'black money' move

BAJNA (India) — For Indian farmer Buddha Singh, who works a small plot of land in the village of Bajna south of New Delhi, the government's decision to abolish 500 and 1,000 rupee bank notes to crush the shadow economy could hardly have come at a worse time.

He and millions of other farmers cannot get enough cash to buy the seeds and fertilisers they need for their winter crops, threatening production of key commodities and hurting rural communities only just recovering after two years of drought.

"We can't buy our full requirements of seeds, fertiliser and pesticides on credit. There is a limit," said Singh, a turbaned man in his 50s, who tills a two-acre field near the highway running from the capital to the holy city of Mathura.

"We're running out of time as we've only 10-15 days more to plant crops like wheat, mustard and chickpeas," he added, to murmurs of assent from around 30 fellow farmers sitting under a neem tree and discussing their predicament.

India's 263 million farmers mostly live in the

cash economy, exposing them to the full impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's shock 8 November announcement that larger denomination bank notes would immediately cease to be legal tender.

Modi's drive to purge "black cash" from the economy has, at a stroke, wiped out 86 per cent of the money in circulation. Delays in printing new 500 and 2,000 rupee notes mean that money could be tight for weeks to come.

While city dwellers

are still queuing up to exchange or deposit old money at the bank, and to draw new funds, many villagers live miles from the nearest branch and have yet to see the new notes being rushed into circulation.

Delays to the planting season that began last month threaten to dent India's agricultural and overall economic growth, wiping out gains for farmers who this year cashed in on decent monsoon rains after being hit by drought in 2014 and 2015.

Farmers who have already spent money on ploughing and irrigation to keep the soil moist can ill afford to leave their land fallow. Late sowing typically reduces yields and increases the risk that inclement spring weather could damage crops.

"In all likelihood we'll not be able to recover our cost of cultivation as the prime sowing time has nearly lapsed," said Prakash Chandra Sharma, another local farmer.—*Reuters*



A labourer sits amongst sacks of unsold potatoes at a wholesale market in Manchur village in the western state of Maharashtra, India, on 16 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pacific rim leaders scramble for trade options in Trump era



People walk in front the Museum of the Nation, where the 2016 APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit will take place from November 19-20 with the participation of leaders from China, Russia, the United States and Japan, in Lima, Peru, on 18 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LIMA — Leaders of Pacific rim nations scrambled to find new free-trade options on Friday as a looming Donald Trump presidency in the United States sounded a possible death knell for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

After lower-level meetings, US President Barack Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Russian President Vladimir Putin were due to arrive at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that brings together leaders whose economies represent 57 per cent of global gross domestic product.

While campaigning for the presidential election which he won, Trump labeled the TPP a job-killing “disaster” and called for curbs on immigration and steeper tariffs on products from China and Mexico.

Though Obama championed the TPP as a way to counter China’s rise, his administration has now stopped trying to win congressional approval for the deal that was signed by 12 economies in the Americas and Asia-Pacific, but excluded China. Without US approval the agreement as currently negotiated cannot come to fruition. China’s Xi is selling an alternate vision for regional trade by promoting the Beijing-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which as it stands excludes the Americas.

The Obama administration said China would be happy to take over the United States’ role as global free-trade promoter.

“We see people around the table here right now talking about if the TPP does not move forward then they’re going to have to put

their eggs in the RCEP basket,” US Trade Representative Michael Froman told journalists.

Froman said that RCEP would not have labor and environmental protections that are written into TPP. Mexico, Japan, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore, however, aim to continue with TPP with or without the United States, Mexico’s Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said.

“We determined that our countries will press ahead with this agreement independently of what Washington decides,” Guajardo said of the trade deal on Mexican radio. He said Mexico had not ruled out joining RCEP but was focusing on TPP. Peru and Japan, on the other hand, signed a joint statement pledging to work harder to put into force the 12-nation accord.—*Reuters*

Race wide open as France ticks down to presidential primaries

PARIS — The race to become the conservative candidate for the French presidency and likely favorite to win the presidential election itself next year looked tighter than it has for months on Friday with voting due to start in less than 48 hours.

Ahead of Sunday’s vote — which will put two people forward to a run-off second round a week later — centrist ex-prime minister Alain Juppe was holding onto a shrinking lead.

Opinion polls show him winning both primary rounds and then going on to win a probable face-off against far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen next May and become head of state.

But Juppe is seeing his lead eroded by two men who sit to the right of him in the political spectrum — ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Fillon, who was Sarkozy’s prime minister be-

tween 2007 and 2012. Sarkozy has long been Juppe’s main rival, but Fillon has come from behind in the opinion polls in recent days, making the race even harder to call. Fillon was seen as the winner

in Thursday’s final debate before the weekend vote. In addition, anyone can vote in the primary, which opens the way for tactical action by left-leaning and far-right voters.—*Reuters*



French politician Alain Juppe, current mayor of Bordeaux, member of the conservative Les Republicains political party and candidate for the centre-right presidential primary attends a rally in Lille, northern France, on 18 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palace says Thai Queen being treated for lung inflammation

BANGKOK — Thailand’s 84-year-old Queen Sirikit is being treated in hospital for lung infection and a high fever, the Royal Household Bureau said on Thursday as quoted by local media Friday.

The palace has issued a fourth statement on the queen’s health, announcing that Her Majesty was admitted to hospital on Wednesday after she was discovered to have a high fever.

The statement reads that doctors are treating the Queen’s condition with antibiotics and that she has remained conscious. They advised her to undergo further examination at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. A blood test has revealed that the queen had a high number of white blood cells in her system. An x-ray confirmed that she was suffering from lung inflammation.—*Xinhua*

2nd Mitsubishi jet in US for test flights

NAGOYA — A second Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp passenger jet arrived in the United States on Friday to join the first plane to conduct flight tests required for a safety certificate in Japan, the company said on Saturday.

The subsidiary of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. plans to fly two more of the Mitsubishi Regional Jet, Japan’s first domestically developed aircraft in about half a century, for tests at Grant County International Airport in the state of Washington. The company is logging flight hours and conducting tests at the airport as they can be done more efficiently than in Japan, as the airport has multiple runways and favorable weather conditions.—*Kyodo News*

Djuric: Serbia’s telecoms system to become integrated

BRUSSELS — A deal on carrying out a Belgrade-Pristina agreement on telecommunications was confirmed in Brussels Friday after three days of discussions, with all details of the implementation coordinated.

A new era is beginning for Telekom Srbija — the operator will be available across Serbia, including Kosovo-Metohija, and its overall value will increase, said the head of the Serbian Office for Kosovo-Metohija, Marko Djuric. “For the first time in many years, we are integrating our telecommunications system — now we will be able to do this in full capacity in our southern province, and with leading-edge technology,” he said. High-speed internet, 3G and 4G technology will now become available on Mt Sara, Mt Brezovica and in Strpce, Gracanica and Klokot. —*Tanjug*

Flood-weary Haiti to hold delayed presidential elections amid heavy rain

MEXICO CITY — Flood-weary Haiti is set to hold long delayed presidential elections this Sunday amid warnings of possible heavy rains across the country.

With much of Haiti still recovering from the devastating floods of Hurricane Matthew in October, officials worried about an abysmal turnout have been urging voters to go to the polls despite the weather. The daily *Haiti Libre* reported on Friday that the president of the Provisional Electoral Council Leopold Berlangier said “Go vote! In other countries people vote under snow ... we cannot postpone elections because of rain.” Acting President Jocelerme Privert, meanwhile, met Thursday with representatives of the National Risk Management System and the National Meteorology Centre to discuss the weather forecast and make contingency plans, the daily said. “We are working on a contingency plan. Brigades are mobilized to respond to the uncertainties that nobody can control Rains and floods should not prevent voters from going to polling stations,” the daily cited Privert as saying.—*Xinhua*

North Korea holds congress for women for 1st time in 3 decades

BEIJING — North Korea’s major organisation for women has held its first congress in 33 years, with leader Kim Jong Un calling on participants to work harder with intense patriotism for their country’s prosperity, official media said on Saturday.

“The women’s union should motivate its members to pro-actively contribute to building a socialist power,” Kim said in a letter sent to the two-day congress, which ran through Friday in Pyongyang, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

The congress of the Democratic Women’s Union of Korea took place after North Korea’s ruling party, led by Kim, held its first congress in 36 years in May.—*Kyodo News*

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Shame/Guilt-Culture Are Found To Decrease In Our Society

Khin Maung Oo

IN this frenetic age, most people are hurriedly going to and fro, as if they have no enough hours to do their daily routines. Office-men are commuting to their work by train, bus or taxi. On streets there can be pedestrians, hawkers, students and those killing time, found moving about. With the increasing amount of vehicles, people face with problems—especially traffic jam. It is not the new one that has arisen just in the time of the incumbent regime. This depicts that urban populace and difficulty of urbanization are closely related.

So as to solve the issue, it is responsible not only for the government but also for each and every one of us. Why? The government takes the responsibility to create a better traffic system and communication network. And responsible personnel are to make vehicle-drivers to abide by the traffic rules and to take actions against violators under

the supervision of traffic control guards. Traffic control policemen serving in the Yangon metropolitan area may be small in number. Here I would like to express about a praiseworthy person. In spite of being an ordinary policeman, many people across the nation have ever heard his name. A man cannot put on a wrong/pretentious face for long. He is not performing his duty to impress people. He won the admiration of the people for his honesty, love of duty and avoidance of corruption, being deservedly acknowledged by the State. His deeds teach us not to do our job perfunctorily. There may be a lot of such persons in our country, but we need more and more. If possible, we should attempt our precious youths to emulate his deeds, spirit and love of duty, so that our country will abound with pure-minded and righteous younger ones in future.

As for human nature, many

are never reluctant to be selfish. In our society there are many self-centered persons. For example, car drivers and conductors, especially those from bus lines tend to monopolize the whole road. They are in the habit of cutting in on other's routes, not paying attention to the risk of loss of lives of passengers on board. And they are ready to quarrel with their fellow drivers. They seem to neglect to be arrested for violation of rules and laws. Sometimes altercations change into murder cases. What is attributed to such incidents? A key point can be said to be lack of discipline or failure to obey the law or self-centeredness. I want to name it differently—lack of shame/guilt culture.

Shame culture can be found among Japanese—from Samurai era to today. That practice can be found to exist during these days. Wonderfully enough, most of Japanese abide by law everywhere and every time. We

can see them waiting for change of green light even though there is no cars passing on the road. They seem ashamed to be regarded as discipline violators by a passer-by. And, in developed countries most are like these, hence their countries stand at the top of the totem pole in every field. In our Myanmar term, there is a combined Pali word *Hiriottappa* ဟိရိတ္တပ္ပ shame and fear of sinning. Our forefathers admonish us to develop a practice of shame and fear of sinning since childhood. Instead, saying abusive words, violating prescribed rules and laws, living in indecent ways, giving & taking bribes for their own sake and developing opportunism cannot be regarded to be a shame or disgrace any longer. Who blacken our minds? No one else, it is ourselves. So, let us change our blackened mindsets into white by rebuilding shame and guilt cultures in us, for the betterment of our future generations.

Pragmatic approach to establish "Home for the Aged" on self-help basis

Daw Myint Myint Kyi
(Wachet Hospital)

AS my age edges over (70) years, I feel the pulse of "getting old". Therefore, all the chilling thoughts on ageing have rush into my head, prompting me in finding possible solution for the simple living of older persons among my friends, including myself. In this connection, I sought ideas from Dharma friends in our circle of Wachet Sangha Hospital Committee, especially with the Vice Chairwoman and Financial Secretary of the Lower Myanmar EC.

The idea for establishing "Home for the Aged" addition with nurse aid on manageable scale came up while visiting an orchid garden named "Thit Sar Minn" owned by Dharma friends in Yangon. The owner of orchid garden asked me over the phone that she was desirous to donate Kyats (0.6) million for the Eternal Fund in addition to her earlier credit of Kyats (0.5) million. In fact, I went there to compliment one CD disk on the merit sharing ceremony event of Wachet Hospital Eternal Fund that hits Kyats (700) million.

While talking motley assortments of Dharma topics, one of the hosts of the orchid garden asked me whether we have any vacant land in Wachet area on the Sagaing Hills. I told them that we have some empty spaces of land, but the new Hospital Annexe with

the name of Shwe Mann Ratana has been recently commissioned, fulfilling the required accommodation for the patients. I responded to give a reply about vacant land after getting more information from the Chairman of Upper Myanmar EC in Sagaing.

Subsequently, I was informed over the telephone by the Chairman of Upper Myanmar that Wachet Hospital in Sagaing Hills has adequate premises for the patients, but donations of cash for the Wachet Eternal Fund is warmly welcomed as this fund truly contributes monthly interest from the bank in functioning the day to day tasks. Immediately, I relayed the message to the intended well wishers of the orchid garden in Yangon.

This article is intended for the pragmatic approach to establish "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid on self-help basis coming out from a beautiful orchid garden. In other words, it is a small project for the ageing persons.

My beloved mother is over (90) years and I am very happy to be with her under the same roof. As an ageing old woman, she talks aimlessly on pointless subjects. However, when angry, she responded with sharp tongue with loud and clear voice. A young man is a household member staying with us for more than one decade, who softly teases my old mother from time to time, for that, my mother shoots back with spiky words like machine gun. Due to ageing, we have to feed, bath and

assist her in most of the movements. She is feeble without an aide. Ageing makes life difficult. Older persons in the age bracket of (80) and (90) are facing trouble in their moment to moment mobility. A few older persons, who spend their whole life in a proper way in accordance with the teaching of Dharma, need no assistance in their daily activities. These older persons are, in fact, rare human species in our country.

The author of this article has just entered the age of (72). Instant care is always in my head even in climbing up and stepping down from a stairway at home and elsewhere. Especially at Super Markets and Malls, the writer is to be careful looking at the shining floor tiles whether they tend to be slippery, with a worrisome sensation. Ascending and descending through an escalator, cautious feeling is always on my mind. Despite a spectacle is placed before my eyes, the vision is not yet perfect. Still, the writer manages in maintaining the budget and accountings of the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills. However, my keen interest in the accountings is sliding down. As a matter of fact, the huge task of statistics has been allocated to junior committee members and asked them to put up only delicate matters to my desk. Passing the line of the age (72), the author is uncertain on the bumpy path of ageing. The age has just edge over the line of elderly and enters into illness and infirmity. Therefore,

the dreamy idea of establishing "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid on self-help basis has come into my head.

One of our generous donors for the Eternal Fund of Wachet Hospital is "Phwar Nwe" and she is enjoying her days at the "Hninzigone Home for the Aged". Some Lower Myanmar EC members visited her from time to time to cheer her up. "Phwar Nwe" told us that the stay at the Hninzigone is comfortable and pleasant, with the opportunity to meditate peacefully. "Phwar Nwe" invited us to join her at the Hninzigone when our age is ripe for quiet stay away from hustle and bustle.

Indeed, the author has great interest in the "Hninzigone Home for the Aged". Being single without any support of family members, the author stands on her own two feet until now, and when the time has come for total retirement, a simple Road Map of chilling down at an appropriate venue has to be drafted. Caring for the old mother needs assistance as the author could not manage the daily chores. When the domestic help quits the job, it is the big headache for the author. Finding a care person for the elderly is very difficult. However, the older person at home is quite comfortable as her offspring come together in making a good plan for her living. Perhaps, this is the favorable fruits in present life due to her past good deeds. Meanwhile, on my part, a plan on self-help basis for total retirement is important.

Most of the homes for the aged established across our country refused to accept the older person passing the age of (80) years. An aging person is edging towards "illness and infirmity", which needs more attention for day to day care. The author and close Dharma friends are desirous to take shelter at an appropriate "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid to face and encounter the inevitable illnesses.

Ultimately, the best choice has been decided.

The dreamy idea is the pragmatic approach to establish "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid on self-help basis at a place near the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills on the west bank of famous and peaceful Ayeyawaddy River. With this wishful idea, the author started the campaign for the home for the aged.

First, the author has supplicated a letter of intent for the establishment of home for the aged to the respective Sangha Committee of Wachet Sector, providing a copy to the Hospital Support and Logistic Committee of Upper Myanmar and responsible persons. The project has many facets such as finding well wishers for the new building fund, structuring the "Home for the Aged" and recruiting staff members for caring assistances of the aged persons. Searching and possible recruiting the caring nurses for the elderly persons is the hardest part in the project.

See page 9 >>

Pragmatic approach to establish “Home for the Aged” on self-help basis

>> from page 8

The basic concept of the author is to establish “Home for Caring the Elder Persons”, but not merely the “Home for the Aged” for shelter. The plan for caring the elderly person needs high budget. Currently, the Wachet Hospital is functioning at a cost of kyats (35) million a month in the treatment of patients, and therefore, the well wishers and the donors have to raise an Eternal Fund towards the Wachet Hospital to get bank interest.

We have had a meeting and discussed the criteria for accepting the “Elderly Person” at the “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid in Sagaing Hills.

Some fundamental principles and standard norms have come into light.

The elderly person, who intend to stay at the Home, must be a well wisher who had helped and assisted in the donation of kyats (10) million from any person for the Wachet Eternal Fund or the person himself / herself had donated kyats (10) million for the Eternal fund. The person will be considered as first priority. Wachet Hospital and the Management will take care of the health of the older person. Day to day cost such as food, accommodation, general expenses (laundry, cleaning and odd jobs) are to be borne by the elder person at the appropriate and reasonable rate prescribed by the Committee. This is one of the basic principles as stipulated at the “Hninzigone Home for the Aged”. Since the rule is most appropriate, suitable and justified, the persons residing at the “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid will feel clear conscience as one is living at the own expense on self reliant basis. There is no need to be humble, modest and reticent. No humiliation is in scope. There will be no gossip and no rumor against the life-long committee members as they clear the bills while staying at the “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid. The residents would have clear mind and plain feeling at the Home.

About one month after the supplication and proposal to the concerned committee in Sagaing Hills, the Vice-Chairman of Upper Myanmar Logistic and Management Committee made a phone call to the author. First, we exchanged the pleasantries, and the author was told that the fine idea of establishing “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid is possible on the Sagaing Hills. The author was nearly forgotten about the proposal as there was no response for many days. It was good and happy news for me as committee members in

Upper Myanmar take interest in the scheme.

As the Vice-Chairman of Upper Myanmar Committee happened to be an Engineer specializing in Myanmar Cultural Design, the author took the opportunity in discussing the structural design for the building. The venue is especially chosen at the west bank of the famous Ayeyawaddy with a view to have clean air and serene environment to the benefit of the elder people staying at the Home.

Thinking about the helping assistances and nurse aids for the aged at the Home, new recruitment of staff members is unavoidable as the regular nurses working at the Wachet Hospital could not be assigned for the “Home for the Aged”.

Patron “Phwar Nwe” of Lower Myanmar EC, who had donated kyats (40) million towards the Wachet Eternal Fund, is staying permanently at the “Hninzigone Home for the Aged”. Vice-Chairwoman (1) and Vice-Chairwoman (2) of Lower Myanmar EC have taken care on the needs of the elderly person. She is fine and comfortable since the “Hninzigone Home for the Aged” was well established and properly managed.

On 9 September 2016, the writer had the opportunity in meeting with some responsible personnel at the “Hninzigone Home for the Aged”, while making some donation in memory of my beloved father. The author sought some information from Medical Superintendent of the Home on the possible training course to be imparted for the elderly persons to be recruited for Sagaing Hills. The MS was agreeable on the proposal to train the new health care staff members. The outcome of the discussions was informed in detailed to Upper Myanmar Wachet Supervisory and Logistic Committee for necessary preparation and to agree on the project.

Action plan from “A to Z” is being set for pragmatic approach to establish “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid on self-help basis. When a donor or donors come forward with the fund especially for the Home, then the implementation of the project could roll on smoothly.

Meanwhile, the author is waiting for a well wisher with a big heart.

Although the author has written a second proposal letter to the Chairman of Upper Myanmar in Sagaing on the plan for training the new nurse aids at “Hninzigone Home for the Aged” in Yangon, there was no

reply for many weeks.

On 25 September 2016, the Lower Myanmar EC hosted an event in Yangon to pay homage to elderly persons above (80) years among the Patrons of Wachet EC Circle. Chairman of Upper Myanmar, who is above (80), also travelled to Yangon from Sagaing for the ceremony. When I asked Upper Myanmar Chairman about the nurse aid training in Yangon, he responded that the Senior Matron of Wachet Hospital in Sagaing was of the view to provide nurse aid training by them internally at Wachet Hospital. That was why no reply came to Yangon.

There was a difference of ideas in the approach of nurse aid training. I am of the view with broad perspective to impart training for about six months combining theory and practice at “Hninzigone Home for the Aged” where over two hundred older persons are sheltering. This pragmatic training is critical for the nurse aid to be assigned at “Home for Aged” in Sagaing Hills.

“The dreamy idea is the pragmatic approach to establish “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid on self-help basis at a place near the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills on the west bank of famous and peaceful Ayeyawaddy River. With this wishful idea, the author started the campaign for the home for the aged”.

My beloved father passed away at the age of (98) years, after an extended period of medical treatment at the hospital and at home for about six years. Some private nurses called in for my father had no practical skills in taking care of the feeble patient. Some had no skill in enteral feeding or tube feeding. With all these past experience, I was of the view to impart practical training of nurse aid at Hninzigone. It is critical and vital to shoulder the task of caring the older person.

New recruits are required to attend at least six months practical training.

Even if the donor for the new building does not come up during these waiting years, it does not matter. The new recruits as nurse aid could be attached to the Wachet Sangha Hospital after the training. The cost incurred for the training for six months must be provided from the fund of Wachet Hospital. However, before sending them to nurse aid training at the Hninzigone, a “Service Bond” should be signed to the effect that the new recruits are obliged to serve for certain years as may

deemed fit by the Management Committee either at the “Home for the Aged” or at the “Wachet Hospital”.

The past episodes at the Wachet Hospital showed that some well trained nurses at the expense of the hospital left Wachet and joined some other health care institutions for better salary. They happened to be job changers. In most of the cases, the trained nurses encountered difficulty at the new job and new surrounding, and wanted to come back to Wachet Hospital in Sagaing Hills. During the lifetime of the founder Kyaswa Sayadaw, the mind changers were not allowed to come back to work at Wachet Hospital.

I have shared motley assortment of approaches to Patrons and EC Members for establishing “Home for the Aged” with nurse aids in Sagaing Hills. The catch point is that concerned persons in Wachet EC must understand the core concept of the delicate plan.

In the following days in October 2016, I discussed with the

four elements of solidity, fluidity, motion and heat. Sayadaw expounded that “the old body” is “Rupa” and the “Mind” is “Nama”, and the status is that “Rupa” has decreased its strength, anchored and could not move, while the “Nama” could maneuvers and moves ahead. This situation opens up the path to search the “Four Noble Truth” by using the “Nama” with plenty of time in hand.

While thinking and writing about the pragmatic approach to establish “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid on self-help basis in Sagaing Hills, I have found the way leading to the gateway of Nirvana by using and realizing “Nama”.

At a time, when we could not follow the “body” as aging persons, we should stay at an environment with clean air and comfort such as “Home for the Aged” supported with nursing aid, and enter into meditation by using the “mind”.

In the first week of October 2016, I have had the opportunity in the exchange of views with responsible persons of Lower Myanmar and Upper Myanmar ECs for the Home. With keen interest, the senior engineer of Upper Myanmar has already drawn up a sketch design on the structure of two storied building for “Home for the Aged” with Grand Main Prayer hall, reading room and attached with elevator, facing famous Ayeyawaddy River.

I am happy to learn that there are many options in the actual implementation of the building.

The estimated total cost of the Home would be kyats (150) million as Wachet area has many local skilled workers.

If the older persons are keen and desirous to own the room permanently at the Home, contribution of kyats (10) million to the common fund is sufficient.

The project could be realized even without the main donor.

That is what the EC called “self-help basis”.

My dream for establishing “Home for the Aged” with nurse aid is ready to transform into reality soon.

Meanwhile, all concerned persons with Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills are expecting for a donor or donors to contribute kyats (150) millions.

(Daw Myint Myint Kyi is a Retired Senior Government Officer and currently serving as the Honorary Secretary of Wachet Hospital Committee for Lower Myanmar). (Translated by Sayar Mya).

Under pressure on US jobs, Ford tries new gambit with Trump

WASHINGTON — Ford Motor Co (F.N), one of Donald Trump's prime corporate targets on the campaign trail, offered the President-elect a chance to claim a victory late on Thursday by informing him it would not shift production of a Lincoln sport utility vehicle to Mexico from Kentucky.

Trump jumped at the chance, claiming in a tweet that he had "worked hard" with Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. to keep the plant in Kentucky, even though Ford had never considered moving the whole factory south of the border.

In letting Trump claim a victory, Ford made what appeared to be a calculated, public appeal to the next president in an attempt to soothe concerns about outsourcing jobs and to gain some leverage with the new administration as the automaker pushes for favourable policy changes in Congress.

"Ford is not going to make a decision on a purely political basis," said Kristin Dziczek, director of industry, labor and economics at the Centre for Au-

tomotive Research in Michigan.

"They are going to make a decision that makes business sense, economic sense and if it happens to align with political goals, that's great," she said.

The No. 2 automaker in the United States is not the only company in Trump's cross-hairs working out how to deal with the new political reality in Washington.

Apple Inc (AAPL.O), criticized by Trump for not building products in the United States, is studying the possibility of moving iPhone production to the United States, Japanese news service Nikkei reported on Thursday.

Apple did not reply to a request for comment on Friday.

Trump campaigned heavily on bringing jobs to the United States and attacking companies such as Ford that plan to take some production overseas, a message that resonated in the economically ravaged centre of the country.

Ford gave Trump plenty of ammunition, confirming in September that all of its remaining small-car production in the

United States, at its facility in Wayne, Michigan, would go to lower-cost Mexico by 2019.

Ford Chief Executive Mark Fields said no plants would be closed as a result, and no US jobs would be lost as capacity at the Wayne plant would be taken up by two new models.

The Mexico plans remain in place, despite the fact that Trump vowed on the campaign trail to stop Ford opening a new plant in that country and promised to slap 35 per cent tariffs on any Ford vehicles made there.

Ford went further this month, announcing on Election Day a new \$195 million investment in India to add 3,000 jobs over the next five years in a technology and business center in Chennai. Ford said this week it would import its Ford EcoSport built in India to the United States. Trump has not made any public comment on that plan.

On Thursday, Ford said it had been reviewing where to build the Lincoln MKC, just one vehicle built at the Louisville assembly plant, but had decided to keep it in Kentucky.

As such, nothing changed, but letting Trump announce the decision gave him the opportunity to claim he saved US jobs and cast Ford as a patriotic manufacturer.

"Both sides will claim a certain level of victory because nobody wants a significant negative impact on the industry," said Dave Cole, chairman emeritus of the Center for Automotive Research.

It was unclear how many, if any, jobs were actually saved by the decision. Ford decided last year to move MKC production by 2019, on the assumption that production of the Ford Escape, a similar vehicle made in the same plant, would grow. But recently Escape demand has slumped, which may have prompted Ford to reconsider.—Reuters



Mark Fields, President & CEO, Ford Motor Company, speaks at the Los Angeles Auto Show in Los Angeles, California, US, on 15 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China state media warn Trump against renouncing free trade deals



US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump appears at a campaign roundtable event in Manchester, New Hampshire, US, on 28 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SHANGHAI — Chinese state media warned US President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday against flip-flopping on trade deals in Asia, as Asia-Pacific leaders gathered for a summit amid fears that growing protectionism will stunt global economic growth.

During the raucous election campaign, Trump fuelled concerns among many of the United States' trading partners by pledging to renegotiate trade accords such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and impose tariffs on imports from countries such as China.

"Turning his trade-bashing campaign talks into actual policies could bash any hope that the Asia-Pacific will finally have its much-wanted free trade deal," said a commentary in the official Xinhua news agency on Saturday.

"Worse, it could drag his country and the wider world into deeper economic distress," added the agency, which is a barometer of government thinking.

Xinhua also said that the exclusion of China from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement was not about boosting trade and instead was US. President Barack Obama's strategy to make sure Washington "rules

supreme in the region."

Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Pacific Rim leaders are meeting at the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Peru this weekend.

Though Obama championed the TPP as a way to counter China's rise, his administration has now stopped trying to win congressional approval for the deal that was signed by 12 economies in the Americas and Asia-Pacific, but excluded China. Without US approval the agreement as currently negotiated cannot come to fruition.

China's Xi is selling an alternate vision for regional trade by promoting the Beijing-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which as it stands excludes the Americas.

Chinese state media has warned Trump against isolationism and interventionism, calling instead for the United States to actively work with China to maintain the international status quo.

"The billionaire-turned-politician needs to prove that derailing the global economy has not been one of the reasons why he ran for US president," Xinhua said.—Reuters

BMW, Baidu joint project on self-driving cars breaks down

GUANGZHOU/WUZHEN, (China) — German automaker BMW and Chinese internet giant Baidu will end their joint research on self-driving cars, executives for the two firms said on Friday, with Baidu now searching for new global research partners.

Wang Jing, the head of autonomous car development at Baidu, told Reuters the company was now using cars from Ford's Lincoln in its US testing, declining to elaborate.

"I'm open for any partners, actually I'm talking to many," Wang said, speaking on the sidelines of China's third World Internet Conference in the eastern Chinese city of Wuzhen.

Tech and automotive leaders contend that cars of the future will be capable of completely driving themselves, revolutionizing the transportation industry, with virtually all carmakers as well as companies such as Alphabet's Google and parts supplier Delphi investing heavily in developing the technology.

The two companies decided to end the cooperation, which involved testing in the United States and China, because they held different opinions on how to proceed with research, BMW's China CEO Olaf Kastner told Reuters at the Guangzhou auto show, which began on Friday.

"We now have found that the

development pace and the ideas of the two companies are a little different," Kastner said, without specifying the exact point of disagreement.

At the conference in Wuzhen, Baidu offered test drives of various autonomous driving prototypes developed separately with Chinese automakers Chery [CHERY.UL], BYD Co Ltd and BAIC Motor.

The test cars drove a closed road, automatically avoiding a bicycle and overtaking cars moving at various speeds. BMW's Kastner said the two made decisions to part ways after jointly developing the automatic overtaking capability, seeing it as a key milestone for the technology.—Reuters



A employee uses his mobile phone as he walks past the company logo of Baidu at its headquarters in Beijing, August 5, 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:45	21:40	Daily
PG-706	6:15	8:30	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:20	17:15	Daily
PG-708	18:20	20:15	3
PG-704	20:00	21:55	Daily
8M-335	7:40	9:25	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	15:10	19:20	1,3,5
UB-017	17:50	19:20	2,4,6,7
UB-019	8:05	9:35	7
UB-019	6:30	8:00	1,2,3,4,5,6

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily
FD-256	13:25	15:10	Daily
FD-254	17:30	19:05	Daily
FD-258	20:05	21:55	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:50	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:00	Daily
SL-207	20:05	21:45	"Daily"

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-711	20:30	01:05+1	5
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,7
CZ-3056	11:25	16:15	3,6
CZ-3056	17:30	22:35	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:50	Daily
SQ-997	10:35	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	15:45	20:15	4,6
MI-533	13:10	20:15	2
3K-584	19:15	23:50	2,5
3K-582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	Daily
UB-001	7:30	12:00	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	21:45	06:50+1	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	7:55	8:50	Daily
TG-2301	13:15	14:10	Daily
TG-305	17:50	18:45	Daily
PG-701	8:50	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:35	Daily
PG-703	18:25	19:15	3
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:40	11:25	Daily
8M-332	19:15	20:00	Daily
UB-020	11:00	11:30	7
UB-018	20:20	20:50	Daily
UB-020	9:15	9:45	1,2,4,5,6

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	12:05	12:55	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:00	Daily
FD-257	18:05	18:55	Daily
DD-4234	10:25	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:20	7:05	Daily
DD-4238	19:30	20:15	Daily
SL-200	9:05	10:00	Daily
SL-206	18:15	19:05	"Daily"

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-712	2:45	4:20	6
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,7
CZ-3055	8:50	10:25	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:30	1,5

SIN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:50	15:20	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:00	12:20	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,5
MI-533	11:00	12:20	2
3K-583	17:05	18:35	2,5
3K-581	8:55	10:25	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	Daily
UB-002	13:15	14:45	Daily

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	15:40	Daily

YGN TO ICN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

YGN TO KUL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:30	23:45	Daily
8M-501	7:50	11:50	1,3,5
MH-741	12:15	16:30	Daily
MH-743	15:45	20:05	1,4,6,7

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:15	15:45	Daily
MU-2032	15:20	18:40	2,4,5,6,7
MU-2012	12:25	18:40	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:45	16:15	1,2,3,4,6

YGN TO PEK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	3,7

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	1,3,5,6,7

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	15:00	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-251	1:10	5:45	1,2,3,4,6,7
KA-251	1:30	5:55	5
UB-8027	9:45	14:15	1,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:15	10:55	1,4,6

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-724	13:10	15:05	Daily

YGN TO DAC

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:15	18:00	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:45	15:00	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:45	22:25	Daily

KUL TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-502	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:50	19:00	Daily
8M-502	12:50	13:50	1,3,5
MH-742	13:40	14:50	1,6,7
MH-740	10:05	11:15	Daily

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:45	11:15	Daily
MU-2031	14:00	14:30	1
MU-2011	08:15	11:25	3
MU-2031	13:55	14:30	2,4,5,6,7

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:45	1,2,3,4,6

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,7

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:50	18:10	1,3,5,6,7

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:35	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:45	23:30	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA-252	22:50	00:30+1	4
UB-8028	15:15	16:55	1,5,7

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:40	6:25	3,5,6

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	11:40	12:35	Daily

DAC TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	12:45	15:30	1,3,6

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	10:50	12:15	Daily

AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines
MH = Malaysia Airlines
MU = China Eastern Airlines
NH = All Nippon Airways
SQ = Singapore Airways
PG = Bangkok Airways
UB = Myanmar National Airlines
VN = Vietnam Airline
3K = Jet Star
AI = Air India
CI = China Airlines
DD = Nok Airline
KA = Dragonair
MI = Silk Air
TG = Thai Airways

AK = Air Asia
CA = Air China
CZ = China Southern
FD = Air Asia
KE = Korea Airlines
QR = Qatar Airways
TR = Tiger Airline

DAY

1 = Monday
2 = Tuesday
3 = Wednesday

4 = Thursday
5 = Friday
6 = Saturday
7 = Sunday

MDL TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:20	20:15	2
MI-522	13:40	20:15	2,6

SIN TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-522	11:00	12:50	2,6
MI-533	11:00	14:25	2

MDL TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:05	16:30	Daily

BKK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

MDL TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:05	16:45	Daily

KMG TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

NYT TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	20:25	22:35	2
PG-722	19:30	22:30	1,2,3,4,5,7

BKK TO NYT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-721	18:25	19:35	2
PG-721	17:00	19:00	1,2,3,4,5,7

UK kids in Scouts-Guides have better mental health at age 50

LONDON — The mental health benefits of participation in childhood scouting activities might last for decades, a new study suggests.

In the middle-aged study participants, mood and happiness tended to range in association with childhood social position — but not for grown-ups who had been in the Scouts-Guides programme when they were young, researchers found.

“Scout or Guide membership appears to almost completely remove the inequality in mental health (aged 50) associated with early life economic disadvantage,” said lead author Chris Dikken of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

“Given the difficulty governments around the world have in tackling health inequalities, we think any evidence of substantial impact is significant,” Dikken told Reuters Health by email.

The Scout Association provides active, outdoor, social activities for young people, male and female, age six to 25 in the UK.

Girlguiding is a similar programme, and the largest girls only youth programme in the UK.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II attends the review of the National Parade of Queen's Scouts with chief scout Bear Grylls (L) at Windsor Castle near London, on 29 April 2012. The Queen is Patron of the Scout Association. PHOTO: REUTERS

For the new study, the researchers focused on more than 9,000 people born in 1958, 28 per cent of whom had been in the Scouts or Guides programme. Mental Health Index tests at age 50 assessed nerves, calmness, downheartedness and happiness over the previous four weeks, with answers scored on a scale of one to 100. On average, participants scored about 75. Adults who had been in Scouts-Guides scored about 2.2 points higher than other adults. For those who

had not taken part in the programmes, mental health scores ranged along the lines of childhood social position, but there was no similar range for adults who had been in Scouts-Guides, as reported in *the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.

“Detecting an apparent effect 40 or so years after an activity is always going to be notable, however in many ways existing research on social mobility, resilience and activities that may be protective of mental

health, provide many explanations of why the kind of programmes used by the scouts and guides and other similar youth organisations might be protective of mental health,” Dikken told Reuters Health by email.

“We know that many of the things being a Scout or Guide enable you to do or learn are useful for protecting mental health: taking exercise, eating well, enjoying the outdoors, having good social skills, having fun and making a contribution,” he said. “We

also know that being a Scout or Guide helps people to encounter new or challenging situations and cope well, with the help of others.”

“Character skills” like conscientiousness, perseverance and curiosity may be as important as intelligence for overall life achievement, he said.

“This then supports the idea that parents might look to activities that might develop these skills in children,” Dikken said.

The researchers did not account for how caring or supportive people’s childhood homes were, which may have had an impact, said Dr. Oliver Huxhold of the German Center of Gerontology in Berlin, who was not part of the study.

“Caring or supporting parents would have been more likely to put kids into these Scout or Guide programmes,” Huxhold told Reuters Health by phone.

But there are no real downsides to these types of programmes, which exist in many countries, he said.

“That’s the main reason why I don’t think it’s problematic to recommend something like this,” he said.—Reuters

Material and plant samples retrieved from space experiments

BEIJING — Samples from space material and plant growth experiments carried out on China’s space lab Tiangong-2 are in good condition and have been delivered to scientists for further research, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said on Saturday.

The material and plant samples were retrieved after the successful landing of the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft’s reentry module Friday.

According to CAS, 12 out of 18 material samples sent to space via Tiangong-2 in September, including semiconductor, nano and thin film materials, were taken back for study, while the other six will remain in space to test their physical and chemical features in zero gravity for future development of material processing techniques.

Seeds of thale cress, a kind of flowering plant, have grown into pods after 48 days of cultivation in space, said CAS, adding that scientists will continue to grow the pods in the laboratory.—Xinhua



Nakia Wilson (R), first cousin of Philando Castile, and Margaret Brooks, a friend of Wilson's, talk with reporters after Minnesota police officer Jeronimo Yanez made his first court appearance after being charged in connection with the shooting death of black motorist Philando Castile last July, at Ramsay County District Court in St. Paul, Minnesota, on 18 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Minnesota officer charged in fatal shooting of black motorist appears in court

ST. PAUL, (Minn) — A Minnesota police officer charged in the shooting death of a black motorist that received national attention after part of the incident was broadcast on the internet made his first court appearance on Friday, but did not enter a plea.

Jeronimo Yanez, 28, a police officer in St. Anthony, Minnesota, did not enter a plea at the brief hearing and waived the reading of charges, the most serious of which is one count of second-degree manslaughter.

Yanez shot and killed Philando Castile, 32, in Falcon Heights, a St. Paul suburb, during a traffic stop in July.

Ramsay County Judge Mark Ireland released Yanez on his own recognizance and ordered him to appear back in court for a 19 December hearing, at which he is expected to enter a plea.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association has said it expects Yanez to plead not guilty. On Wednesday, Ramsey County Attorney John Choi announced the charges against Yanez, saying his use of deadly force was not justified.

The traffic stop turned chaotic after Castile calmly told Yanez he was legally carrying a firearm and that he was not reaching for it, Choi said. Yanez claimed he thought Castile was reaching for the weapon before he fired seven shots into Castile, Choi said.

Starting about 40 seconds after the shooting, Castile's girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, who was sitting in the vehicle's passenger seat, streamed images of a bloody Castile on Facebook Live, and the recording went viral on social media. Following the hearing Yanez was whisked from the courtroom, leav-

ing from a back door and avoiding media. Yanez's attorney, Tom Kelly, declined to comment as he left the courthouse.

Philando Castile's cousin, Nakia Wilson, said afterward that she was disappointed with his release.

"They've put trust in him to come back," she said. "I'm saddened ... I'm still feeling a lot of emotions." "Just looking him in the face - the man who shot my cousin," Wilson said.

Yanez is also charged with two felony counts of dangerous discharge of a firearm that endangered the safety of Reynolds and her four-year-old daughter, who was in the car at the time of the shooting. Before Yanez, no officer had been charged in more than 150 police-involved deaths in Minnesota since 2000, according to Minnesota House Rep. Raymond Dehn.—Reuters

Obama, EU leaders agree to stick together, stay tough on Russia

BERLIN — US President Barack Obama and European leaders on Friday underscored the importance of working together in NATO and chided Russia for its bombing of Syria and failure to implement a Ukrainian peace accord.

The White House statement followed a meeting at which Obama sought to reassure his counterparts from Germany, Britain, Spain, Italy and France that his successor Donald Trump would not break up the transatlantic alliance.

Trump raised concerns during the campaign when he said he could withhold military aid from NATO allies if they had not met their defence commitments and said he would forge closer ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"President Obama expressed confidence that, even at a moment of great change, democratic values have done more to advance human freedom and progress than any other system in history, and will continue to do so going forward," the White House said.

The leaders agreed on the need to work together to stabilize the Middle East and North Africa, as well as securing diplomatic resolutions for the conflicts in Syria and eastern Ukraine.

European leaders had sought Obama's support as they prepare to extend sanctions imposed on Russia by Washington and Brussels in 2014 following its intervention in eastern Ukraine, and consider fresh sanctions over Russia's actions in Syria, where it backs Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told a news conference with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy that no decisions had been made about extending the Ukraine sanctions, but actions to implement the Minsk

peace accord were not sufficient.

Merkel said the leaders discussed their concerns about Syria during their meeting on Friday, but did not talk about imposing Syria-related sanctions against Russia that have been sought by the Syrian opposition.

Obama and the EU leaders called for an immediate end to attacks on rebel-held parts of the city of Aleppo by Syrian government forces and their allies Russia and Iran that monitoring groups say have killed dozens this week alone.

Syrian opposition officials on Friday met EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and other officials and urged them to focus on protecting civilians and lifting the siege, said Anas al-Abdah, who heads the Syrian National Coalition.

He said he had hoped for stronger words from Obama and the EU leaders, and called for Washington and Brussels to put more "real pressure" on Russia and Iran.

US and EU officials have stressed the need for a political solution, including the departure of Assad, but Trump has said he views the fight against Islamic State as a bigger priority.

EU leaders are expected to extend sanctions related to Ukraine in December or January.

Obama and the European leaders "unanimously agreed on the continued need for Russia to fully meet its commitments under the Minsk agreements and that Ukraine-related sanctions against Russia must remain in place until it does so," the White House said.

They said a durable ceasefire in eastern Ukraine was needed to move forward with free and fair local elections in the occupied regions of Donetsk and Luhansk.—Reuters

Thousands march in Argentina capital for more aid to the poor

BUENOS AIRES — Tens of thousands of protesters, marching under the banners of unions and leftist groups, blocked traffic in Argentina's capital on Friday to pressure the government into increasing subsidies to the poor.

The country continues to suffer through a prolonged economic recession nearly one year after President Mauricio Macri's center-right administration took office and instituted market-friendly reforms aimed at boosting Argentina's competitiveness and taming rampant in-

flation.

Macri has largely maintained the generous social programmes he inherited from the previous populist administration of Cristina Fernandez, but his relations with unions and leftist social groups have been tense because of soaring consumer prices.

On Friday, some of the country's largest unions, including the General Workers' Confederation, blocked Avenue 9 de Julio — one of the widest streets in the world — to pressure the government to approve legislation that would boost

subsidies to the poor and create jobs with public funds.

"I don't think the government has the courage to change the situation," said Pablo Moyano, deputy secretary of a powerful truck drivers' union. "They govern for wealthiest sectors. I wish they had worked as quickly on a solution for workers as they did for the farmers, for the miners."

Macri's ruling coalition opposes the law, which was approved by the Senate this week but has not yet been considered by the lower house.—Reuters



Demonstrators from social organisations and unions rally outside the Congress demanding an increase in social security payments and in support of an opposition-backed bill that seeks payments to the poorest families and creates more new jobs, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 18 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WHO declares end of Zika emergency but says virus remains a threat

GENEVA/CHICAGO — The World Health Organisation on Friday declared that Zika no longer constitutes an international emergency, but it stressed a need for a long-term effort to address the virus, which has been linked to birth defects and neurological complications.

Officials on WHO's Emergency Committee made clear the Zika still constitutes a global public health threat. They warned the virus, which has been found in 60 countries since the outbreak was identified last year in Brazil, will continue to spread where mosquitoes that carry the virus are present.

Removing the international emergency designation will put Zika in a class with other diseases, such as dengue, that pose serious risks and require continued research, including efforts to develop effective vaccines.

But some public health experts worried that losing the "international emergency" label could slow research into the virus, which continues to cause infec-



A woman stands near a poster explaining about the Zika virus at the Ministry of Health office in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 2 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tions in the United States and elsewhere.

WHO in February declared Zika a public health emergency of international concern — a designation under international law that

compels countries to report outbreaks. The move was part of an effort to determine if Zika was linked to reports in Brazil of the severe birth defect microcephaly and the neurological disorder

Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Traditionally, Zika had only been thought to cause mild symptoms.

That goal has been met, said Dr David Heymann, chair of the Zika Emergency

Committee and a professor of infectious disease at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in a conference call with reporters following the committee meeting in Geneva.

Because research has now shown that Zika and microcephaly are linked, "the committee felt that what is best now is a very robust technical response to the virus, and that would require work within WHO," he said.

The UN health agency maintained recommendations including that people exposed to the Zika virus should take preventive measures for six months to avoid sexual transmission.

"It remains crucially important that pregnant women avoid traveling to areas with local transmission of Zika, because of the devastating complications that can occur in fetuses that become infected during pregnancy," the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) said in a statement. Some experts, expressed concern that losing the "international emergency" designation might result in less support for research into the virus.

"I think WHO's decision is unwise," said Lawrence Gostin, a global health law expert from Georgetown University.—*Reuters*

Tensions boil over in overcrowded Greek migrant camp

ATHENS — Tensions were high on the Greek island of Chios on Friday after unknown individuals hurled rocks and petrol bombs at a makeshift camp for refugees and migrants, setting facilities on fire, police sources and aid organisations said.

Video footage showed people struggling to put out the flames with blankets. Women and children were evacuated and camped outside a tavern in an incident which erupted overnight Thursday.

It was the second night running of incidents at the

facility, a makeshift camp run by the local municipality of the Aegean island. There were incidents on Wednesday when individuals let off fireworks from the camp and outsiders threw stones into the camp.

"Both incidents together have destroyed the places to sleep for some 100 men women and children. Today there was a third incident where stones were thrown and one Syrian man was seriously injured to his head and had to be hospitalized," said Roland Schoenbauer, spokesman for UNHCR

Greece. According to police, there are more than 1,000 refugees and migrants in the Souda Camp on Chios.

Under a European Union deal with Turkey, migrants and refugees arriving after 20 March are to be held in centres set up on five Aegean islands, including Chios, and sent back if their asylum applications are not accepted.

Tensions have boiled over at overcrowded camps on Greece's islands as the slow processing of asylum requests adds to frustration over living conditions.

"Tensions are not completely new, but the situation is seriously concerning us, because it has deteriorated seriously. The tensions are linked to the overcrowding of the sites," Schoenbauer said, saying the perpetrators of the incidents should be found and brought to justice.

More than 3,000 migrants and refugees are currently in Chios. The state facilities have a capacity for 1,100 people.

The situation could be eased if authorities improved security around the camp and stepped up efforts



Refugees and migrants make their way at the Souda municipality-run camp, on the island of Chios, Greece, on 2 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to find refugee and migrants alternative accommodation, Schoenbauer told Reuters.

In September, thousands of people fled a mi-

grant camp on the Greek island of Lesbos after fire swept through tents and cabins during violence among residents.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ()

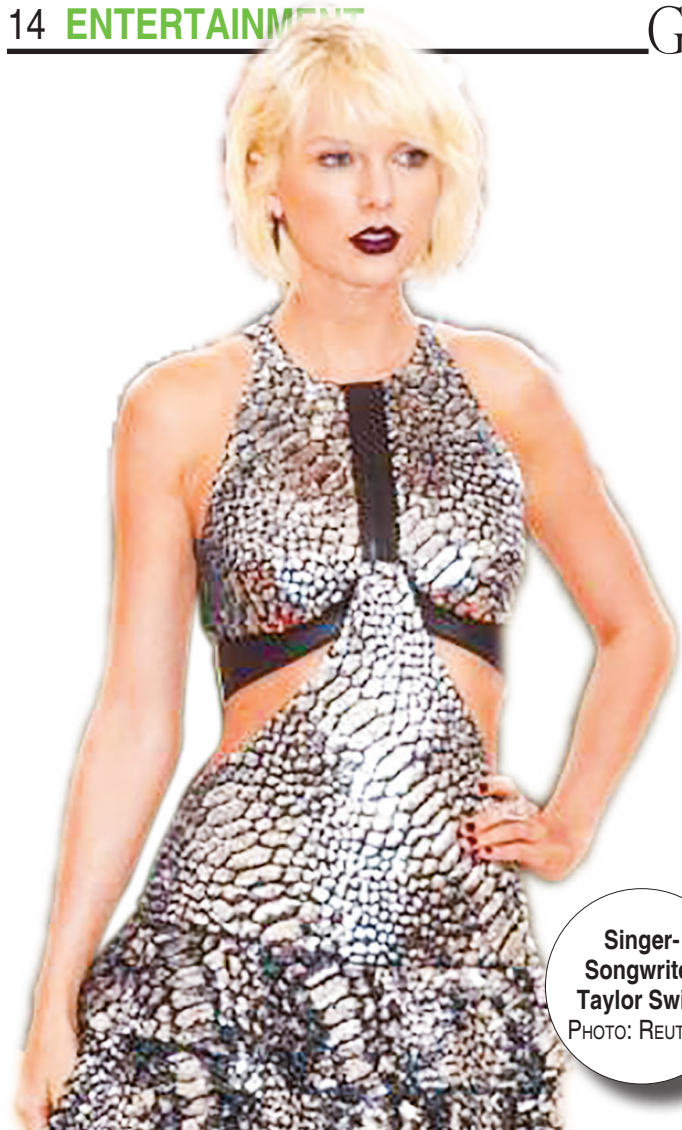
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: 2301185



Singer-Songwriter Taylor Swift.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Taylor Swift Experience comes to New York

NEW YORK — Taylor Swift may be just 26 years old, but with a 10-year career behind her, multiple Grammy Awards and higher earnings than any other celebrity, she now has her own exhibition.

The Taylor Swift Experience arrived in New York this week for a three-month stay after opening at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles in 2014. Displays include the country-turned-pop singer's handwritten lyrics, her piano, some of her 10 Grammy statuettes, her

baby clothes and show costumes.

"It's basically the story of Taylor Swift and the making of a modern superstar. It's funny, she's 26 years old and she's already a legend, but it's actually the truth," said Grammy Museum curator Nwaka Onwusa.

Swift started her career in Nashville as a guitar-strumming 16 year-old and was named by Forbes as the world's top earning celebrity of 2016 with earnings of \$170 million.—Reuters

Metallica guitarist self-destructs over loss of riffs

LONDON — US rock group Metallica's new album, 'Hardwired... to Self-Destruct', could be their best ever, according to bassist Robert Trujillo, but guitarist Kirk Hammett will always be left feeling something was missing.

Hammett's contribution to the band's tenth studio album, and first in eight years, was scaled back after he lost a phone containing scores of riffs during writing sessions.

"It's something I've had to deal with," he said at a mid-night fan meet and greet session in London on Friday morning to welcome the album's release.

"It's never a good feeling when something that we work hard at and you put so much time invested and you have so much expectations for it all of a sudden disappears. It's the most disap-

pointing thing."

Despite the disappointment, Hammett believed that Metallica were enjoying a strong creative run and that there was more to come from the group, who formed in 1981 and have produced famed songs including 'Enter Sandman'.

The band have sold more than 100 million records worldwide and over 60 million in the United States, with those numbers set to increase after early positive reviews from critics to 'Hardwired... to Self-Destruct'.

Trujillo said producer Greg Fidelman deserved a lot of credit for his work on the new album.

"It could possibly be the best Metallica album ever. I mean, the sounds are so amazing, the drums, the bass, the vocal production," the bassist told Reuters.—Reuters

Kanye West booed as declares support for Donald Trump

NEW YORK — Rapper Kanye West has come out in support of Republican President-elect Donald Trump, drawing boos and whistles from fans.

West told the audience at a concert in San Jose, California on Thursday night that he didn't vote in the 8 November US presidential elections "but if I would have voted, I would have voted for Trump."

The rapper remained quiet during the acrimonious 2016 election campaign while Hollywood stars and other music

heavy hitters like Beyonce, Katy Perry and Bruce Springsteen supported Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"I hate the fact that because I'm a celebrity, everybody told me not to say that I loved the debates," West said, in videos of remarks posted by concert goers on Twitter and YouTube.

"I loved his (Trump's) approach," added West, who last

year declared he was considering running for US president himself in 2020.

Many in the crowd jeered, and

Entertainer Kanye West.
PHOTO: REUTERS

mayed and shocked at Trump's election. But former "Daily Show" television host Jon Stewart this week called out left-wingers as hypocrites for portraying Trump voters as racists even as they purport to reject stereotypes.

"I thought Donald Trump disqualified himself at numerous points," the liberal-leaning Stewart said in a CBS television interview on Thursday. "But there is now this idea that anyone who voted for him has to be defined by the worst of his rhetoric."

West, who is married to TV reality star and businesswoman

Kim Kar-

dashian, suggested he still had presidential ambitions. "I don't say 2020 out of disrespect to our president at all ... I'm just saying I've got some ideas about the way we should connect our ideas," West told concert goers.

Celebrity socialite Paris Hilton said in an Australian TV interview this week that she also voted for Trump, describing him as an old family friend.—Reuters

Boston Marathon bombing film 'Patriots Day' personal for Wahlberg

LOS ANGELES — The makers of the first Hollywood movie about the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing say they felt enormous pressure to get the tone and the story right for all those who were killed and injured in the attack.

"Patriots Day," due in US movie theaters on 21 December, made its world premiere in Los Angeles on Thursday night, and Mark Wahlberg, its Boston-born star and producer, said local expectations were high.

"I'm going to be accountable and they're going to hold me to the highest standards and the expectations are beyond," Wahlberg told Reuters on the red carpet.

Three people were killed and 264 were injured when two homemade bombs went off in the crowd near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on 15 April, 2013.

Cable television channel HBO is next week airing the documentary "Marathon," which focuses

largely on the struggles of the survivors. The movie version focuses on the hunt for the bombers, who turned out to be brothers, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

"To make movies like 'Patriots Day', there's definitely pressure. But that pressure for me is very inspiring and I want to get it right for the people, the members of law enforcement, the members of government, the citizens who were hurt, the citizens that had

loved ones killed," director Peter Berg said. Asked if it was too soon to be making a Hollywood movie out of the tragedy, Wahlberg said people had to stand up against fear and hatred.

"It's not soon enough," he said. "These things are happening all over the world and they will continue to happen and the only way we can combat these things is with love and people coming together." "You

can't

live in

fear,

you

have

to

stand

up and

we have

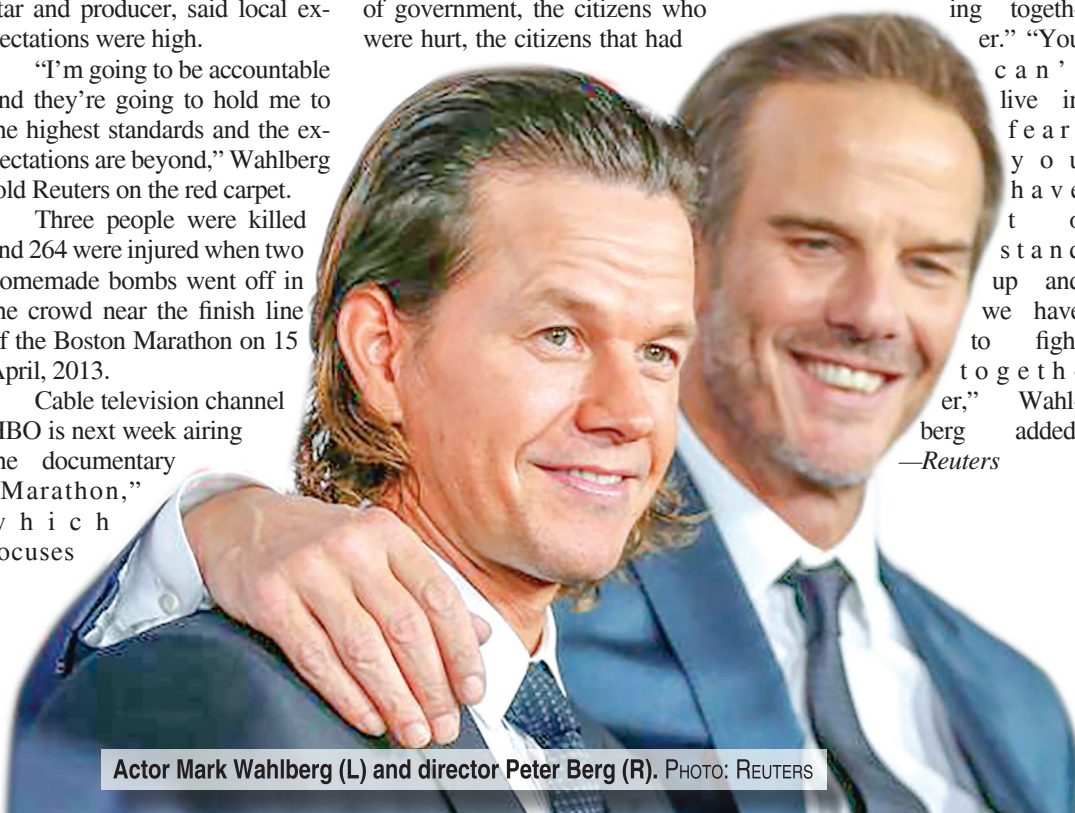
to fight

together,"

Wahl-

berg added.

—Reuters



Actor Mark Wahlberg (L) and director Peter Berg (R). PHOTO: REUTERS

Massachusetts man convicted of fraud over 'Kung Fu Panda' drawings, lawsuit

BOSTON — A Massachusetts man was found guilty by a federal jury on Friday of back-dating drawings he relied on as evidence in his lawsuit against DreamWorks Animation that claimed he had invented the title character in the 2008 film "Kung Fu Panda."

A federal jury in Boston convicted Jayme Gordon, 51, on four counts of wire fraud and three counts of perjury after prosecutors accused him of lying in a 2011 lawsuit against the Hollywood studio, the US Attorney's Office in Massachusetts said in a statement.

Prosecutors charged that Gordon back-dated drawings of a high-kicking bear named Po in 2008 after seeing an early trailer for the film, and then used them to try to extract a \$12 million settlement from DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc.

Some of the drawings Gordon relied on had been



The character of Po poses at the premiere of "Kung Fu Panda 3" at the TCL Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California, on 16 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

traced from a coloring book featuring Walt Disney Co characters from the 1994 film "The Lion King," prosecutors said. Gordon agreed to dismiss his lawsuit after DreamWorks, which also

produced the "Madagascar" and "How to Train Your Dragon" films, discovered the tracing. By that time, though, the company had spent \$3 million defending itself against the litigation.

Gordon faces 20 years in prison for the wire fraud charges and five years for the perjury charges. Gordon's attorney was not immediately available for comment. —Reuters

Buckingham Palace gets funds for urgent overhaul

LONDON — Buckingham Palace, one of Britain's best known landmarks, will undergo a decade-long over-

haul costing 369 million pounds after the government approved what it said were urgently needed funds.

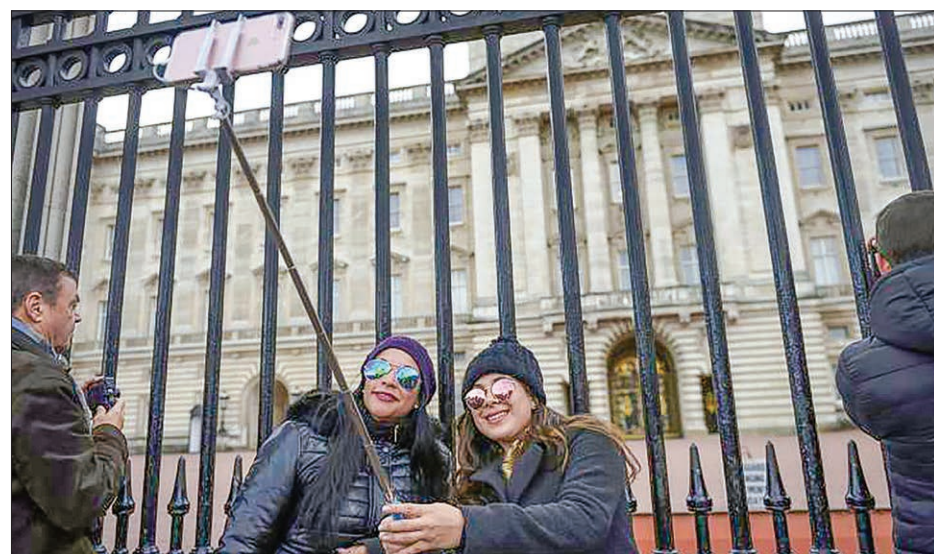
The work will focus on replacing electrical wiring, water pipes and the heating system which were installed

after World War II.

"These urgent works have been properly costed and will ensure the palace can continue its centuries-long tradition of being the working house of our monarch," David Gauke, chief secretary to the Treasury, said on Friday.

The renovation will be funded by a temporary increase in the Sovereign Grant, the government financial mechanism that covers the running costs of Queen Elizabeth's household.

The most critical work will begin in April 2017 and the palace will remain occupied and fully operational while the renovation is carried out, the royal press office said. —Reuters



People take a selfie in front of Buckingham Palace in central London, Britain, on 18 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thanksgiving cheer for consumers as turkey, ham prices fall

CHICAGO — US consumers can expect to spend less on their traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys and hams this year as supplies of both have rebounded from outbreaks of avian flu and a pig virus that hit production.

In 2015, an outbreak of avian flu hit poultry flocks and 7.7 million turkeys were culled. Two years earlier, the hog population was hit by porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv), and roughly 8 million pigs were killed.

Hog farmers have revived herd sizes so successfully that the United States had a record 70.9 million head as of 1 September, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Turkey meat supplies dropped about 2 per cent last year to 5.63 billion pounds, according to the USDA, due to one of the worst bird flu outbreaks the country has ever had. This year, turkey meat production is expected to rebound to 6.06 billion pounds - the first year-over-year growth since 2012.

"Supply has come back fully with production up over last year. And from a whole bird stand point, specifically for the holidays, there is sufficient product out there," Jay Jandrain, executive vice-president of sales for Butterball, told Reuters.

Butterball, jointly owned by Seaboard Cor-

poration (SEB.A) and Maxwell Farms, is the biggest turkey producer in the United States and accounts for about a third of all the whole birds purchased in the country during the holiday season.

Americans eat their way through some 46 million turkeys at Thanksgiving and 22 million during the Christmas holiday.

This year, cheaper birds should help reduce the cost of a traditional Thanksgiving Day spread for 10 people to \$49.87 from last year's \$50.11 record, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF).

A 16-pound turkey this year averages \$22.74, a decrease of 30 cents from 2015, AFBF director of market intelligence John Newton told Reuters.

The AFBF has been conducting its survey of Thanksgiving meal costs for 31 years, asking nearly 150 volunteer bargain hunters in 48 states for a price that tallies up staples such as cranberries, pumpkin pie, sweet potatoes and all the trimmings. For ham, the USDA's monthly retail meat data issued on Thursday showed boneless hams at \$4.05 per pound in October, down from \$4.23 a year ago. "It is advantageous in pricing thanks to the record hog production this year," Patrick Fleming, director of market intelligence and innovation at the National Pork Board, told Reuters. —Reuters

MRTV (20-11-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am
• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:35 am
• Business News
8:35 am
• Documentary
8:50 am
• Documentary
9:35 am
• People's Talk
9:50 am
• Poem for Children
10:00 am
• Sunday Talk
10:35 am
• Women in Myanmar Society
11:15 am
• Documentary (LIVE GREEN)
11:35 am
• Documentary
12:35 pm
• This Weeks Special Interest

12:50 pm
• Myanmar Movie
3:30 pm
• Documentary
4:35 pm
• Mono Classical Songs
5:15 pm
• Gitadagale Phwintbaohn
6:35 pm
• Shwe Pyi Aye Music Troupe (Part-1)
7:15 pm
• TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
• News/ International News/ Weather Report
8:35 pm
• Life Struggles
9:00 pm
• News/ Weather Report
• Once Recorded Arts
• Myanmar Traditional performing Arts Competitions)

Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

mitv Myanmar International

(20-11-2016 07:00am ~ 21-11-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3)
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Adventurous Young Photographer
08:45	Am	Irawaddy Dolphin (Part- II)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Wonderful Indonesia
08:53	Am	Sticky Shan Snack
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part - II)
10:46	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: Thet Nge

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Memorable Yaw Region
07:43	Pm	Parents' Day
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar: Community Center & Mobile Library
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin-A Living Literary Legend of Myanmar)
08:54	Pm	Myanmar Master Class "Still Life" (Fruit)

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

England did not do enough to protect Rooney — Mourinho

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho feels England did not do enough to protect captain Wayne Rooney after he was pictured socialising in the early hours of the morning while on international duty last week.

Rooney made a public apology on Wednesday after images were published of the striker looking worse for wear at the team hotel after last week's victory over Scotland at Wembley.

"The only thing I say is the player goes to the national team, he belongs to the national team — I learned since I was a kid, if someone lends me something I have to take care of it even better than if it was mine," Mourinho told British media.

"You know — your friend

lent you a pencil, you have to take care of the pencil better than if it was your pencil. So I think when one day if I become a national manager, I will try."

Several other Premier League managers have leapt to Rooney's defence, including Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp, who felt there had been an over-reaction to the episode.

"I am not saying I will be successful and I am not being critic with Gary (caretaker manager Gareth Southgate) or anyone," Mourinho added.

"I get the occasion to wish Gary the best of luck but I think you have to build something to protect what is not yours, what someone lends you." —Reuters

Ogilvy leads Spieth by two going into final round in Sydney

SYDNEY — Geoff Ogilvy stormed to the top of the Australian Open leaderboard with a stunning eight-under-par 64 on Saturday to take a two-shot lead over Jordan Spieth and two others going into the final round.

The 39-year-old former US Open champion found his putting touch to pocket six birdies on the front nine and two more over his last three holes in a flawless third round that left him 11-under for the tournament.

World number five Spieth came through a wobbly start at Royal Sydney to shoot a 68 for a share of second place with Aaron Baddeley (67) and New Zealander Ryan Fox (71).

Adam Scott would have had

a share of fifth with Rod Pampling (70) a further shot back had he not missed a birdie putt from two feet at the last, but the former world number one will still fancy his chances of making up four shots on Sunday.

Scott, now ranked seventh in the world, carded a 71 for a share of sixth with fellow Australians Lucas Herbert, Jake Higginbottom, James Nitties and Jason Scrivener.

Adelaide-born Ogilvy, winner of the Stonehaven Cup in 2010, started the day six shots off the pace but soared into the lead with the best round of the week in the best weather conditions of a blustery day.

—Reuters



Magnus Carlsen (L), of Norway, makes a move against Sergey Karjakin, of Russia, during their opening match in the 2016 World Chess Championship in New York US, on 11 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Spectators watch and play at World Chess Championship in New York

NEW YORK — Brooklyn chess teacher Boris Izrayelit, 33, had to keep his eyes on two games at once at the World Chess Championship on Friday.

World champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway and challenger Sergey Karjakin of Russia were playing the sixth game of the match in the Fulton Market Building in lower Manhattan. In an adjoining room, Izrayelit watched them on video screens while next to him, two of his students, Nura, 10, and Vincenzo, 9, were playing a game of their own.

"These are two of my best chess players," Izrayelit proudly said, adding that he has taught some 400 children at Success Academy in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn for four years. "Just watch."

Since the championship started on 11 November, Izrayelit and thousands of spec-

tators have gathered at the site to watch Carlsen, 25, defend the title he has held since 2013. Some have traveled from the other end of the world.

Oscar Estay, 42, from Concepcion, Chile, said he had attended every game so far and would continue to do so until the Nov. 30 awards ceremony, even though he is certain that Carlsen will walk out a world champion once again.

"I already know who's going to win," said Estay, who started playing chess when he was eight and is the president of his city's chess club. "I am here for the ambience. There are people from everywhere."

Robert Villeneuve, 53, traveled to New York from Montreal and was sitting across the table from Estay.

"One of my biggest regrets in life is not going to the last World Chess Championship

here in New York in 1995," Villeneuve said of the year when Russian great Garry Kasparov successfully defended his title against Viswanathan Anand of India at the World Trade Centre.

"I thought, if I don't go this time, when will I be able to go?"

This year's championship, staged by FIDE, the world chess federation, has 12 games and seven "rest days" for Carlsen and Karjakin, 26.

So far, all six games played have ended in draws, with half a point awarded for a draw and one point for a win.

"It's fun to be here," Tyler Landsman, 10, said sitting across from his father who taught him how to play chess.

"It feels a bit more interesting being here than it does just sitting in front of a chess board at our house."

—Reuters



Manchester United's Juan Mata scores their first goal against Arsenal during Premier League at Old Trafford, on 19 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mourinho 1 Wenger 1 as United miss the boat

LONDON — Olivier Giroud headed home an 89th-minute equaliser to earn Arsenal a 1-1 draw at Manchester United on Saturday and a Premier League point their performance barely merited.

Just when it seemed Jose Mourinho would again prevail in his long-standing feud with Arsene Wenger thanks to a second-half Juan Mata goal, substitute Giroud popped up to head home Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's cross in the rarest of Arsenal attacks.

Injury-hit United had largely dominated proceedings and looked set to bring relief to Mourinho after an inconsistent start to the season when Mata struck in the 68th minute.

But in a game that never reached the peaks of the fixture that was once the league's defining contest, there was little consolation for Mourinho in improving his unbeaten league record against Wenger to 12 as Arsenal stretched their unbeaten run in all competitions to 17.

—Reuters